



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Friday, July 21, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Mark Finchem Blasts Rule Adopted by Clean Elections Commission

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) today expressed deep disappointment with [the rule recently adopted by the Clean Elections Commission](#) and announced plans to explore all options, including legislation, litigation, and other available remedies, to protect the original intent of the voter established "clean elections" option.

The rule allows Clean Elections candidates, who receive and spend public money to run for office, to make payments to political parties for vague items, such as "consulting" and undefined "services rendered," and virtually anything that could be deemed "reasonable." Political parties are now free to launder the public money to political parties and then to political committees to be used in elections in other areas of the state.

"It's a travesty that the so-called 'Clean Elections' Commission would allow political parties to be subsidized with public money, which then creates the proven potential for manufacturing 'dark money' out of clean public money," said Representative Finchem. **"The Clean Elections Commission had the opportunity to do the right thing but chose the politically expedient option."**

During the 2016 election cycle, several Democratic candidates running for office with public money, many with little chance of actually being elected, transferred over \$100,000 to the Arizona Democratic Party. [House Republicans attempted to close this loophole in February](#), but [Democrats defeated the measure](#), arguing that the Clean Elections Commission would close the loophole on its own.

"While Democrats claim to oppose 'dark money,' they seem to have no problem subsidizing their party with public money. There is nothing stopping the exploitation of this Clean Elections maneuver. The whole point of the program was to help candidates at the candidate level, not to fund political party machines," Representative Finchem said.

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